



# *Arrow Chronicle*



May 7, 2007

Vol. 1, Issue 1

Published in the interest of personnel assigned to the 4-42 Field Artillery at FOB Raider



*U.S. Army photo by Sgt. Joy Pariante, 13th Public Affairs Det.*

**1st Lt. Michael Roscoe, Battery A, 4th Battalion, 42nd Field Artillery Regiment, 1st Brigade Combat Team, 4th Infantry Division tries to reach a compromise with local nationals in Ubaydi. The towns people staged a protest regarding their need for medical supplies and the town's medical aid mission which was cancelled.**

# Straight Arrows perform with both honor, professionalism

---

**Lt. Col. Doug Kirby**  
*Commander*

---

On April 30, 4th Battalion, 42nd Field Artillery Regiment deployed to Iraq in support of Operation Raider Scrimmage. Our mission in this complex environment was to secure the local population and neutralize the anti-Iraqi forces. We asked

the Soldiers of the Straight Arrows Battalion to undertake a myriad of tasks, and they have performed their duties with honor and professionalism.

In addition to the standard functions of a headquarters, Headquarters Battery is responsible for manning two personal security detachments. These combat patrols have traveled the entire

battlespace; safely transporting the battalion command sergeant major and myself to multiple critical events. The Soldiers selected for this mission have performed exceptionally; they are always ready to move at any time of day.

Battery A has taken over battlespace in the vicinity of Ubaydi, a village in the eastern half of the

battalion's area of operations. The Aztecs have worked diligently to support the established government of Iraq by attending the local Nahia meetings and helping the Iraqi Police perform their duties. The Iraqi Police in the area have made great strides in their ability to work independent of

*See SA6, Page 6*

## *Arrows quickly adjusting to new AO*

---

**Command Sgt. Maj. Michael Williams**  
*Command Sergeant Major*

---

The Straight Arrows battalion recently deployed to Forward Operating Base Raider located in the Raffa Qada area just outside Baghdad. So far the Soldiers have adjusted well

to their new home.

The living conditions address all of the Soldier's needs; the barracks are in excellent condition, and there are gyms, shopettes and other amenities to provide a necessary stress release.

From the moment we arrived at FOB Raider, the Soldiers of 4th Battalion,

42nd Field Artillery Regiment have worked diligently to build combat power. During our relief in place/transfer of authority period, they stood up their battery and company areas, signed for up-armored vehicles, and prepared for combat operations. The transition from 1st Battalion, 66th Armor

Regiment to 4th Bn., 42nd FAR was seamless due to the hard work of the Straight Arrows.

4th Bn., 42nd FAR inherited an area of operations with two major population centers. They have both made strides towards establishing themselves as a self-

*See SA7, Page 6*

The *Arrow Chronicle* is published once while at FOB Raider at North Fort Hood in the interest of the servicemembers and their families of the 4th Battalion, 42nd Field Artillery Regiment, 1st Brigade Combat Team, 4th Infantry Division.

The *Arrow Chronicle* is an Army funded newsletter authorized for the members of the U.S. Army, under the provision of AR 360-1.

The views in The *Arrow Chronicle* are not necessarily the official views of, nor endorsed by the U.S. Government, the Department of Defense or the Department of the Army.

**Maj. Gen. Jeffrey Hammond**

*4th Inf. Div. Commander*

**Col. James Pasquarette**

*1st BCT Commander*

**Command Sgt. Maj. Michael Bobb**

*1st BCT Command Sergeant Major*

**Maj. David Olson**

*1st BCT Public Affairs Officer*

**Capt. Isaac Taylor**

*Commander, 13th Public Affairs Det.*

**Sgt. Joy Pariente**

*NCOIC, 13th Public Affairs Det.*

**Sgt. Jason R. Krawczyk**

*Editor*

*Staff Writers*

**Spc. David Hodge**

**Pfc. Tiffany Mercer**

**Pfc. Adam C. Blazak**

**Pvt. Christopher M. Gaylord**

# Alpha 4-42 FA presence in Ubaydi

**Story and photos by Spc. David Hodge**  
*1st BCT PAO*

Sometimes a face-to-face meeting in a community can accomplish more than any other way of communication. For the Soldiers of 2nd Platoon, Battery A, 4th Battalion, 42nd Field Artillery Regiment, 1st Brigade Combat Team, 4th Infantry Division

this type of interaction is as common as any method used today.

The Aztecs, as Btry. A is known, conducted a sheik engagement to discuss ongoing civil projects and to drop off some school supplies to the local school in the town of Ubaydi May 4.

"The civil-military operations we discussed included medical operations, a Nahia meeting, equipment for water purification and IP training," said Capt.

Juan Santiago, commander, Btry. A, 4th Bn., 42nd FAR, 1st BCT. "Also, the Aztecs brought school supplies to the local teacher of the Ubaydi School."

After the information with the sheik had been exchanged, Santiago and his Soldiers delivered school supplies such as pencils and paper to the school.

"The importance of face-to-face interactions help build a better relationship with both the leaders and citizens of Ubaydi," Santiago said.



Capt. Juan Santiago, commander, Battery A, 4th Battalion, 42nd Field Artillery Regiment, 1st Brigade Combat Team, 4th Infantry Division delivers school supplies to a teacher in Ubaydi. "The importance of face-to-face interactions help build a better relationship with both the leaders and citizens of Ubaydi," Santiago said.

# FRGs: Playing a part in Soldier support

**Story and photos by Pfc.  
Tiffany Mercer**

*13th Public Affairs Det.*

Deployment; a time when Soldiers are focused on the missions that they need to complete in order to keep themselves and this country safe. They need to know that while they are downrange, their loved ones are being taken care of.

That is where the Family Readiness Group comes in. The FRG is a gathering of spouses and family members who organize fundraisers and other functions to help raise money. More importantly though, it is a means of support during a tough time and provides

official information from the unit to the family members.

Stacy Braggs, the FRG leader for Battery B, 4th Battalion, 42nd Field Artillery, 4th Infantry Division, wants her members to know that while their spouses are downrange they are going to do all that they can to show their support.

"The fundraisers are to help raise money for pre-deployment parties and other functions that will help the moral of their Soldiers and their families," Braggs said. She said they also get together to make care packages to send overseas for their spouses.

Braggs has been with Btry. B's FRG for the last

three years, and became the leader this past February. She became a member due to her relationship with her fiancé, Sgt. Andrey Williams, a section chief with 1st platoon.

Braggs and Williams are proud parents of four. She has her daughters, Cassidy, 8, and Cierra, 5, from a previous marriage and Williams has his daughter, Nikki, 7. Due to his last trip downrange, Williams missed the birth of their daughter Carmen, who will soon be 15 months old.

"It's hard on all of us. The girls are extremely close to him and love him to death. This will be his third deployment and he's going to miss out on a lot

of their growing up," Braggs said with a sigh.

Having her friends in the group makes things a little bit easier to deal with when things become overwhelming, she added.

"With four kids, things are bound to get hectic once and a while," Braggs said with a tiny smile.

She credits a lot of her holding things together while Williams is gone to the FRG and her friends that she has there.

"It's hard when he is deployed, but knowing I have my friends in the group makes it a whole lot easier," Braggs said, explaining how she didn't think she would have made it without their support.



U.S. Army photo by Pvt. Christopher M. Gaylord, 13th Public Affairs Det.

***Spc. Paul Esparza, Battery B, 4th Battalion, 42nd Field Artillery Regiment pulls security in Karabila May 2. Btry. B was in Karabila providing town security and assisting the Iraqi Army and Iraqi Police in instilling a sense of safety and security in the Iraqi people. For more photos of Btry. B, see Page 5.***



# Btry. B finds cache, pulls security



**Top left:** Staff Sgt. Savador Miranda, Battery B, 4th Battalion, 42nd Field Artillery Regiment, 1st Brigade Combat Team, 4th Infantry Division looks for signs of metal in the area while searching for a weapons cache in Karabila on May 2.

**Top right:** Pfc. Joseph Morales, Battery B, 4th Battalion, 42nd Field Artillery Regiment, 1st Brigade Combat Team, 4th Infantry Division pulls security during the search for a weapons cache in Karabila on May 2.

**Left:** Munitions and weapons were found buried in Karabila during a cache search on May 2.

Photos by Pvt. Christopher M. Gaylord

13th Public Affairs Det.



U.S. Army photo by Sgt. Joy Pariente, 13th Public Affairs Det.

Soldiers from Battery A, 4th Battalion, 42nd Field Artillery Regiment, 1st Brigade Combat Team, 4th Infantry Division control a riot in Ubaydi. The towns people staged a protest regarding their need for medical supplies and the town's medical aid mission which was cancelled.

### SA6, from Page 2

American influence, which they displayed by successfully identifying and securing an improvised explosive device without any Coalition support.

The Aztecs recently detained a high value insurgent cell leader in the town of Ubaydi; helping to stabilize the entire area.

Btry. B's focus is the western half of our battalion's area of operations; their primary mission is to secure the

locals in the village of Karabila. They have also worked with the local nationals to meet their needs and secure them from outside threats. During one combined operation, the Black Dragons detained a cell leader in Karabila, severely inhibiting the insurgents ability to destabilize the area. The regional Qada meeting took place this week in the village of Karabila and the Black Dragons ensured the meeting was safe and productive.

Company G, our forward support company, has done an excellent job keeping our battalion operational. Aside from maintaining our vehicles and feeding the force, the Gladiators have conducted some non-standard, yet critical missions. They built a patrol base to secure Btry. B's patrols around Karabila.

They are also responsible for escorting the brigade's route clearance asset along dangerous routes in order to clear them for safe travel.

We cannot forget our families back home. Their love and support see us through the tough times while deployed. We know things are not easy for our families while we are gone.

We look forward to the day when we reunite in Texas.

I am proud of all the Soldiers and their families in this great battalion.

***Straight Arrow 6***

### SA7, from Page 2

sufficient village, and we are assisting their efforts to reach that status. From the first mission 4th Bn., 42nd FAR executed, the Straight Arrows proved that they are a highly trained and disciplined unit. The Soldiers have adapted well to the non-standard

missions asked of them. They have conducted combat patrols, meetings with local leadership, route clearances, air assaults, cordons and searches, and fortified patrol bases.

Our combat patrols have been very successful at neutralizing the anti-Iraqi forces' efforts to destabilize

the area. So far we have found three caches, two improvised explosive devices, detained nine insurgents, and eliminated one sniper.

You should be proud of your Straight Arrows Soldiers and all they have accomplished. They have completed every task in a professional manner. Keep

them in your prayers as we pray for all the families left behind; we couldn't do what we do without your support. Keep the cards, letters and big packages coming and thanks for all that you do.

***Straight Arrow 7***